

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's attention to the above referenced application. Reconsideration of this application in view of the enclosed amendments and remarks is requested. Claims 1, 8 and 56 have been canceled, and claims 46, 51, 58, 61, 64, 66, 68, 71, 72, 74, and 84 have been amended. Claims 16, 46-55, and 57-85 are currently pending. Claims 46, 58, 71, and 84 are the pending independent claims.

ARGUMENT

The Office Action includes rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). The Office Action also indicates that claims 56, 72-76, 84, and 85 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of any parent claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). However, in order to avoid unnecessary delays, expenses, and arguments, this response amends the claims to put the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, this response makes the following amendments:

- (a) amends independent claim 46 to include the features from claim 56, and cancels claim 56;
- (b) amends independent claim 58 to include features like those indicated as allowable from claims 71 and 74;
- (c) amends claim 68 to depend directly from independent claim 58;
- (d) amends independent claim 71 to include features from claim 74;
- (e) amends claim 74 to remove the features added to independent claim 71;
- (f) rewrites claim 84 in independent form to include the features from its former parent claim (i.e., original claim 71); and
- (g) amends dependent claims 51, 61, 64, 66, and 72 with regard to antecedent basis, in light of the amendments to the parent claims described above.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 46, 58, 71, and 84 are allowable. All other pending claims depend ultimately from one of those independent claims. Since each dependent claim implicitly includes the features of its parent claim or claims, the dependent claims are also allowable.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (512) 732-3927. Prompt issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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